

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7279

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRDBN CH, NZ, JA, CA, AS

SUBJECT: MIXED AND JOINT COMMISSIONS OF PRC AND WESTERN COUNTRIES:

PART I

REF: STATE 22563

1. SUMMARY WESTERN AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES IN PEKING VARY
IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE UTILITY OF ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH THE
PRC IN A JOINT COMMISSION FORMAT, BUT THE MAJORITY ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC.

COMMON TO ALL IS THE ADMISSION THAT VIRTUALLY NO CONCRETE
RESULTS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. DISCUSSION IS TYPICALLY CONFINED
TO GENERALITIES. ATTEMPTS BY THE WESTERN SIDE TO RAISE
SPECIFICS, BE THEY TRADE PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS CONCERNING
TRADE OPPORTUNITIES, ARE USUALLY ACCEPTED FOR TRANSMISSION
TO THE RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES ONLY. REPLIES ARE FEW AND GENERALLY
DELAYED. WE LEARNED OF NO STANDING OR AD HOC WORKING GROUPS.

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THIS IS THE FIRST OF TWO MESSAGES IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS
IN REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. USLO RAISED THE QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL IN CONVERSATIONS
WITH THE COMMERCIAL STAFFS OF THE JAPANESE AND WESTERN EMBASSIES
IN PEKING, WHO PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING BRIEF SKETCHES OF THEIR
EXPERIENCE WITH THE JOINT OR MIXED COMMISSION FORMATS.

3. JAPAN. THE SINO-JAPAN TRADE AGREEMENT OF 1974 PROVIDED FOR ANNUAL MEETINGS OF A JOINT COMMITTEE FOR JAPAN-CHINA TRADE. THE FIRST SESSION WAS HELD IN PEKING IN APRIL 1975, AND THE SECOND MEETING WILL BE HELD IN TOKYO THIS SPRING. (THE 1976 MEETING WAS OMITTED BY MUAUAL CONSENT.) THE JAPANESE SIDE OF TEN PEOPLE WAS HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ASIAN AFFAIRS, BUREAU OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF MITI AND THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THE CHINESE SIDE WAS LED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE FOURTH DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT).

4. THE PROPOSED JAPANESE AGENDA FOR 1977 IS RESTRICTED TO GENERAL DISCUSSIONS REVIEWING CURRENT SINO-JAPANESE TRADE AND FUTURE PROSPECTS. THE JAPANESE EMBASSY DOES NOT LOOK UPON THIS BODY AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR SPECIFIC COMMERCIAL DISCUSSION OR TECHNICAL TRADE MATTERS, PREFERRING TO LEAVE THESE TO PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OR TO SPECIALIZED NEGOTIATING BODIES. THE EMBASSY IS RESIGNED TO THE PROSPECT OF CHINA RAISING THE QUESTION OF PRC SILK EXPORTS TO JAPAN, HOWEVER, AND WILL INCLUDE A GOVERNMENT TEXTILE SPECIALIST ON THEIR DELEGATION TO THIS YEAR'S SESSION TO HELP DEAL WITH IT.

5. CANADA. PROVISION FOR ANNUAL JOINT TRADE CONSULTATIONS WAS MADE UNDER THE TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY PREMIERS CHOU AND TRUDEAU IN OCTOBER 1973 AND RSVEUED IN OCTOBER 1976. MEETINGS WERE HELD IN DECEMBER 1973 (PEKING), FEBRUARY 1975 (OTTAWA) AND FEBRUARY 1976 (PEKING). THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL BE HELD IN OTTAWA IN MARCH. LAST YEAR, THE CANADIAN DELEGATION OF EIGHT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS WAS LED BY THE ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE DEPT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE (ITC) AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND INDUSTRY SECTOR SPECIALISTS FROM ITC. THE CHINESE SIDE WAS LED BY SUN CUO-CH'ANG, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, THIRD DEPARTMENT OF THE MFT.

6. THE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR 1977 INCLUDES THE OBLIGATORY GENERAL REVIEW OF BILATERAL TRADE, CURRENT AND FUTURE. TRADE RELATED EXCHANGE VISITS, EXHIBITIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION CONFERENCES HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED IN THIS VENUE. IN ADDITION, THE CANADIAN SIDE TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH THE CHINESE SPECIFIC CASES OF PRIVATE COMPANIES' DIFFICULTIES AND TRADE OFFERS. NO SPECIFIC RESULTS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THESE APPROACHES DURING CONSULTATIONS, BUT THEY FORM AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONTINUING CANADIAN EFFORT IN THIS AREA. FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANT, THE CANADIAN SIDE USES THESE TALKS TO ESTABLISH

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CONTACT WITH THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES WITHIN THE PRC GOVERNMENT.
DURING THE 1976 TALKS IN PEKING, CANADIAN INDUSTRY SECTOR
SPECIALISTS VISITED CHINESE TRADING CORPORATIONS AND END-USERS
MINISTRIES. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY REGARDS THE JOINT TRADE
CONSULTATION MECHANISM MORE FAVORABLY THAN ANY OTHER MISSIONS
HERE IN PEKING. EMBOFFS EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF A RELATIVELY LOW
LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION (DEPUTY DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR) AND THE
GREATEST POSSIBLE DEGREE OF SPECIALIZATION, SINCE BOTH FACTORS
ASSIST IN REDUCING CONSULTATIONS TO USEFUL SPECIFICS AND IN
EDUCATING BOTH SIDES TO MUTUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROBLEMS.

7. AUSTRALIA. THE TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH THE PRC ON
JULY 24, 1973 IN CANBERRA SPECIFIES ANNUAL MEETINGS OF A JOINT
TRADE COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE UNDER THE
AGREEMENT. THREE ANNUAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD; THE FOURTH
WILL BE HELD IN CANBERRA THIS YEAR. THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION
IN 1976 WAS HEADED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT (I.E.,
DEPUTY MINISTER) OF OVERSEAS TRADE AND INCLUDED OFFICIALS FROM
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THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. THE CHINESE SIDE WAS
REPRESENTED BY CHENG TO-PIN, DIRECTOR OF THE THIRD DEPARTMENT

OF THE MFT.

8. THE AGENDA TYPICALLY INCLUDES A GENERAL REVIEW OF SINO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE AND TRADE PROSPECTS AND OF FUTURE MISSIONS AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE. NEITHER SIDE RAISES SPECIFIC TRADE PROBLEMS. THE AUSTRALIAN SIDE HAS TRIED TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND NEW EXPORT PRODUCT LINES, BUT NO SPECIFIC RESULTS COULD BE CITED. THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IS GENERALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

9. NEW ZEALAND. ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 1974 TRADE AGREEMENT, THE NEW ZEALAND-CHINESE JOINT COMMISSION MET FIRST IN WELLINGTON IN APRIL 1975 AND IN PEKING IN 1976. THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN IN WELLINGTON IN MAY OF THIS YEAR. THE NEW ZEALAND SIDE WILL BE HEADED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY (T#I) AND COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF T#I AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE CHINESE DELEGATIONS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN HEADED BY EITHER CHENG TO-PIN OR SUN SUO-CH'ANG. THE NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY FEELS THESE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SO LIMITED TO GENERALITIES AS TO BE COMPLETELY UNPRODUCTIVE.

10. COPIES OF THE CANADIAN AND NEW ZEALAND TRADE AGREEMENTS ARE BEING POUCHED SEPARATELY TO EA/PRCM AND DOC, BEWT. GATES

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Message Attributes

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